

CSHCS ALERT #10 (2)-2013 - CSHCS Change of procedure re: Physician Assistants
Mon 9/30/2013

As it turns out, the change we informed you of last week regarding having to temporarily authorize Nurse Practitioners who work under the supervision of an authorized physician also applies to Physician Assistants.

Therefore,

CSHCS has to make a change with regard to Physician Assistants (PA). CSHCS has paid for PA services for many years because of the way specialist offices work and the fact that PA services were billed through their supervising physician. This is very common practice.

As a result of the ACA, PAs must now bill directly for their services, and they are no longer able to bill under the NPI of a supervising physician. Therefore, CSHCS will now authorize PAs when the PA is supervised by the client's authorized specialist and a request is made to add the PA to the client's authorized provider list. Thus far, CSHCS has only seen one case of a PA billing for the services provided to a CSHCS only child. This suggests that we can anticipate a small number of times that an adjustment will need to be made.

This change in procedure is expected to be temporary. We have submitted a request to adjust CHAMPS to recognize the supervising physician as authorized and therefore pay the PA claim without CSHCS having to authorize the specific PA. This revision is expected to take approximately a year to put into place as it works its way up the priority listing for CHAMPS revisions.

LHD staff will need to assure that a request for PA authorization is for a PA that works under the specialist who is authorized for the client. This information will need to be included with a request to add the PA to the authorized list. PAs not practicing under an authorized supervising specialist are not to be authorized.

If you have any questions, please contact your CSHCS CSS analyst.

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